

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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June 29, 2006
PR 06-72

**ABC INVESTIGATORS TEAM WITH LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TO
ARREST TWO SUSPECTS FOR FURNISHING ALCOHOL TO MINORS**

(**Gilroy**) Investigators from the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) and Gilroy Police Department Officers arrested two suspects on June 22, 2006 for furnishing alcoholic beverages to minors. The operation was conducted in the general vicinity of the City of Gilroy.

ABC and Gilroy Police conducted a program called a Decoy Shoulder Tap Operation which targets adults who purchase alcohol for people less than 21 years of age. Under the program, a minor under the direct supervision of a peace officer will stand outside a liquor or convenience store and ask patrons to buy them alcohol. The minor indicates in some way he or she is underage and cannot purchase the alcohol.

If the adults purchase alcohol for the minor, investigators then arrest and cite them for furnishing alcohol to the minor. The penalty is a minimum \$1000 fine and 24 hours of community service.

The program is intended to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. Statistics show they generally have a higher rate of drunk driving crashes than adults. Studies also show the combination of alcohol and youth tends to increase criminal conduct. According to the American Medical Association, underage drinking can increase chances of risky sexual behavior and teen pregnancy, juvenile delinquency, compromise health, and result in unintentional injury and death.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency.

The ABC is a department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Secretary Sunne Wright McPeak, a member of the Governor's Cabinet.